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Fata viam invenient—— Virg.

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THE following Story is lately Tranſlated out of an *Arabian* Manuſcript, which I think has very much the Turn of an Oriental Tale, and as it has never before been Printed, I queſtion not but it will be highly acceptable to my Reader.

The Name of *Helim* is ſtill famous through all the Eaſtern Parts of the World. He is called among the *Perſians*, even to this Day, *Helim* the great Phyſician. He was acquainted with all the Powers of Simples, underſtood all the Influences of the Stars, and knew the Secrets that were Engraved on the Seal of *Solomon* the Son of *David*. *Helim* was alſo Governor of the Black Palace, and chief of the Phyſicians to *Alnareſchin* the great King of *Perſia*.

Alnarejchin was the moſt dreadful Tyrant that ever reigned in this Country. He was of a fearful, ſuſpicious and cruel Nature, having put to Death upon very ſlight Jealonſies and Surmiſes five and thirty of his Queens, and above twenty Sons, whom he ſuſpected to have conſpired againſt his Life. Being at length wearied with the Exerciſe of ſo many Cruelties in his own Family, and fearing leſt the whole Race of *Caliphs* ſhould be entirely loſt, he one Day ſent for *Helim*, and ſpoke to him after this manner. *Helim*, ſaid he, *I have long admired thy great Wiſdom, and retired way of living. I ſhall now ſhow thee the entire Confidence which I place in thee. I have only two Sons remaining, who are as yet but Infants. It is my deſign that thou take them home with thee, and educate them as thy own. Train them up in the humble unambitious Purſuits of Knowledge. By this means ſhall the Line of* Caliphs *be preſerved, and my Children ſucceed after me, without aſpiring to my Throne whilſt I am yet alive.* The Words of my Lord the King ſhall be obeyed, ſaid *Helim*. After which he bowed, and went out of the King's Preſence. He then received the Children into his own Houſe, and from that time bred them up with him in the Studies of Knowledge and Vertue. The young Princes loved and reſpected *Helim* as their Father, and made ſuch Improvements under him, that by the Age of One and twenty they were inſtructed in all the Learning of the *Eaſt*. The Name of the eldeſt was *Ibrahim*, and of the youngeſt *Abdallah*. They lived together in ſuch a perfect Friendſhip, that to this Day it is ſaid of intimate Friends, that they live together like *Ibrahim* and *Abdallah*. *Helim* had an only Child, who was a Girl of a fine Soul, and a moſt beautiful Perſon. Her Father omitted nothing in her Education, that might make her the moſt accompliſhed Woman of her Age. As the young Princes were in a manner excluded from the reſt of the World, they frequently converſed with this lovely Virgin, who had been brought up by

pretending to viſit the young Princes his Sons, demanded of *Helim* the ſight of *Balſora* his fair Daughter. The King was ſo enflamed with her Beauty and Behaviour, that he ſent for *Helim* the next Morning, and told him it was now his deſign to recompence him for all his faithful Services; and that in order to it, he intended to make his Daughter Queen of *Perſia*. *Helim*, who knew very well the Fate of all thoſe unhappy Women who had been thus advanced, and could not but be privy to the ſecret Love which *Abdallah* bore his Daughter, *Far be it*, ſaid he, *from the King of* Perſia *to contaminate the Blood of the* Caliphs, *and join himſelf in Marriage with the Daughter of his Phyſician.* The King, however, was ſo impatient for ſuch a Bride, that without hearing any Excuſes, he immediately order'd *Belſora* to be ſent for into his Preſence, keeping the Father with him, in order to make her ſenſible of the Honour which he deſigned her. *Balſora*, who was too modeſt and humble to think her Beauty had made ſuch an Impreſſion on the King, was a few Moments after brought into his Preſence as he had commanded.

She appeared in the King's Eye as one of the Virgins of *Paradiſe*. But upon hearing the Honour which he intended her, ſhe fainted away, and fell down as Dead at his Feet. *Helim* wept, and after having recovered her out of the Trance into which ſhe was fallen, repreſented to the King, that ſo unexpected an Honour was too great to have been communicated to her all at once; but that, if he pleaſed, he would himſelf prepare her for it. The King bid him take his own way, and diſmiſt him. *Balſora* was convey'd again to her Father's Houſe, where the Thoughts of *Abdallah* renewed her Affliction every Moment; inſomuch that at length ſhe fell into a raging Fever. The King was informed of her Condition by thoſe that ſaw her. *Helim* finding no other means of extricating her from the Difficulties ſhe was in, after having compoſed her Mind, and made her acquainted with his Intentions, gave her a certain Potion, which he knew would lay her aſleep for many Hours; and afterwards, in all the ſeeming Diſtreſs of a diſconſolate Father, informed the King ſhe was dead. The King, who never let any Sentiments of Humanity come too near his Heart, did not much trouble himſelf about the Matter; however, for his own Reputation, he told the Father, that ſince 'twas known through the Empire, that *Balſora* died at a time when he deſigned her for his Bride, it was his Intention that ſhe ſhould be honoured as ſuch after her Death, and that her Body ſhould be laid in the Black Palace, among thoſe of his Deceaſed Queens.

In the mean time *Abdallah*, who had heard of the King's deſign

It is the Cuſtom among the *Perſians*, to convey in a private manner the Bodies of all the Royal Family, a little after their Death, into the Black Palace, which is the Repoſitory of all who are deſcended from the *Caliphs*, or any way allied to them. The Chief Phyſician is always Governor of the Black Palace, it being his Office to Embalm and Preſerve the Holy Family after they are Dead, as well as to take care of them while they are yet Living. The Black Palace is ſo called from the Colour of the Building, which is all of the fineſt poliſhed black Marble. There are always burning in it five thouſand everlaſting Lamps. It has alſo a hundred folding-Doors of Ebony, which are each of them watched Day and Night by a hundred Negroes, who are to take care that no body enters, beſides the Governor.

Helim, after having convey'd the Body of his Daughter into this Repoſitory, and at the appointed time received her out of the Sleep into which ſhe was fallen, took care ſome time after to bring that of *Abdallah* into the ſame place. *Balſora* watched over him, till ſuch time as the Doſe he had taken loſt its effect. *Abdallah* was not acquainted with *Helim*'s Deſign when he gave him this ſleepy Potion. It is impoſſible to deſcribe the Surprize, the Joy, the Tranſport he was in at his firſt awaking. He fancied himſelf in the Retirements of the Bleſt, and that the Spirit of his dear *Balſora*, who he thought was juſt gone before him, was the firſt who came to congratulate his Arrival. She ſoon informed him of the Place he was in, which, notwithſtanding all its Horrors, appeared to him more ſweet than the Bower of *Mahomet*, in the Company of his *Balſora*.

Helim, who was ſuppoſed to be taken up in the embalming of the Bodies, viſited the Place very frequently. His greateſt Perplexity was how to get the Lovers out of it, the Gates being watched in ſuch a manner as I have before related. This Conſideration did not a little diſturb the two interred Lovers. At length *Helim* bethought himſelf, that the firſt Day of the Full Moon, of the Month *Tizpa*, was near at Hand. Now it is a received Tradition among the *Perſians*, that the Souls of thoſe of the Royal Family, who are in a State of Bliſs, do, on the firſt full Moon after their Deceaſe, paſs through the Eaſtern Gate of the Black Palace, which is therefore called the Gate of *Paradiſe*, in order to take their flight for that happy Place. *Helim* therefore having made due Preparations for this Night, dreſs'd each of the Lovers in a Robe of Azure Silk, wrought in the fineſt Looms of *Perſia*, with a long Trail of Linnen whiter than Snow, that floted on the Ground behind them. Upon *Abdallah*'s Head he fixed a Wreath of the greeneſt Mirtle, and on *Balſora*'s a Garland of the freſheſt Roſes. Their Garments were ſcented with the richeſt Perfumes of *Arabia*. Having thus prepared every thing, the Full Moon was no ſooner up, and ſhining in all its Brightneſs, but he privately opened the Gate of *Paradiſe*, and ſhut it after the ſame manner, as ſoon as they had paſs'd through it. The Band of Negroes, who were poſted at a little Diſtance from the Gate, ſeeing two ſuch beautiful Apparitions, that ſhow'd themſelves to Advantage by the Light of the Full Moon, and being raviſhed with the Odour that flowed from their Garments, immediately concluded 'em to be the Ghoſts of the two Perſons lately deceaſed. They fell upon their Faces as they paſt through the midſt of them, and continued proſtrate on the Earth till ſuch time as they were out of Sight. They reported the next Day what they had ſeen, but this was looked upon, by the King himſelf, and moſt others, as the Compliment that was uſually paid to any of the deceaſed of his Family. *Helim* had placed two of his own Mules at about a Mile's Diſtance from the black Temple, on the Spot which they had agreed upon for their Rendezvous. He here met them, and conducted them to one of his own Houſes, which was ſituated on Mount *Khacan*. The Air on this Mountain was ſo very healthful, that *Helim* had formerly tranſported the King thither, in order to recover him out of a long Fit of Sickneſs; which ſucceeded ſo well that the King made him a Preſent of the whole Mountain, with a beautiful Houſe and Gardens that were on the Top of it. In this Retirement lived *Abdallah* and *Balſora*. They were both ſo fraught with all kinds of Knowledge, and poſſeſt with ſo conſtant and mutual a Paſſion for each other, that their Solitude never lay heavy on them. *Abdallah* applied himſelf to thoſe Arts which were agreeable to his manner of living, and the Situation of the Place, inſomuch that in a few Years he converted the whole Mountain into a kind of Garden, and covered every Part of it with Plantations or Spots of Flowers. *Helim* was too good a Father to let him want any thing that might conduce to make his Retirement pleaſant.

In about ten Years after their Abode in this Place the old King died, and was ſucceeded by his Son *Ibrahim*, who, upon the ſuppoſed Death of his Brother, had been called to Court, and entertained there as Heir to the *Perſian* Empire. Tho' he was for ſome Years inconſolable for the Death of his Brother, *Helim* durſt not truſt him with the Secret, which he knew would have fatal Conſequences, ſhould it by any means come to the Knowledge of the old King. *Ibrahim* was no ſooner mounted to the Throne, but *Helim* ſought after a proper Opportunity of making a Diſcovery to him, which he knew would be very agreeable to ſo good-natured and generous a Prince. It ſo happened, that before *Helim* found ſuch an Opportunity as he deſired, the new King *Ibrahim*, having been ſeparated from his Company in a Chaſe, and almoſt fainting with Heat and Thirſt, ſaw himſelf at the Foot of Mount *Khacan*; he immediately aſcended the Hill, and coming to *Helim*'s Houſe demanded ſome Refreſhments. *Helim* was very luckily there at that time, and after having ſet before the King the choiceſt of Wines and Fruits, finding him wonderfully pleaſed with ſo ſeaſonable a Treat, told him that the beſt Part of his Entertainment was to come, upon which he opened to him the whole Hiſtory of what had paſt. The King was at once aſtoniſhed and tranſported at ſo ſtrange a Relation, and ſeeing his Brother enter the Room with *Balſora* in his Hand, he leaped off from the *Sofa* on which he ſat, and cry'd out '*tis he! 'tis my* Abdallah! — having ſaid this he fell upon his Neck, and wept. The whole Company, for ſome time, remained ſilent, and bedding Tears of Joy. The King at length, after having kindly reproached *Helim* for depriving him ſo long of ſuch a Brother, embraced *Balſora* with the greateſt Tenderneſs, and told her, that ſhe ſhould now be a Queen indeed, for that he would immediately make his Brother King of all the conquer'd Nations on the other ſide the *Tygris*. He eaſily diſcovered in the Eyes of our two Lovers that inſtead of being tranſported with the Offer, they preferred their preſent Retirement to Empire. At their Requeſt therefore he changed his Intentions, and made them a Preſent of all the open Country as far as they could ſee from the Top of Mount *Khacan*. *Abdallah* continuing to extend his former Improvements, beautify'd this whole Proſpect with Groves and Fountains, Gardens and Seats of Pleaſure, till it became the moſt delicious Spot of Ground within the Empire, and is therefore called the Garden of *Perſia*. This *Caliph*, *Ibrahim*, after a long and happy Reign, died without Children, and was ſucceeded by *Abdallah*, a Son of *Abdallah* and *Belſora*. This was that King *Abdallah* who afterwards fixed the Imperial Reſidence upon Mount *Khacan*, which continues at this time to be the Favourite Palace of the *Perſian* Empire.

ADVERTISEMENT.

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